336 kk
July-Sept 1958

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OUTLOOK

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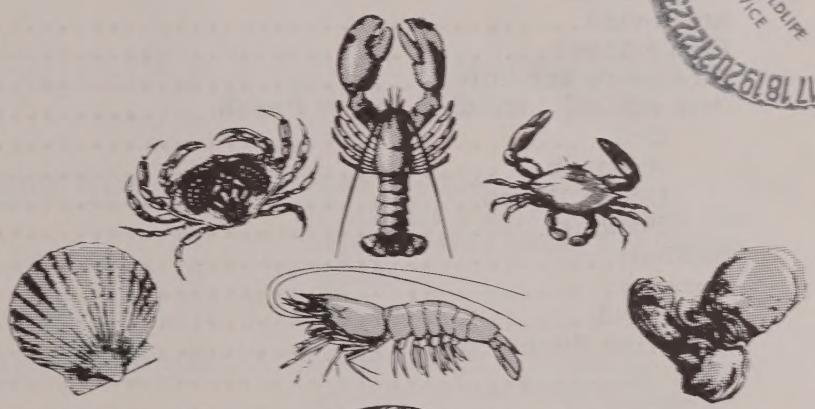

Markets **Demand**

Supply

July - September 1958

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Fishery Leaflet 336 kk

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior

Fishery Leaflet 336 kk

Washington 25, D. C. July 1958

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Prepared in the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES OUTLOOK

July - September 1958

THE OUTLOOK AT A GLANCE

BUSINESS ACTIVITY.....	Some possible improvement during third quarter, with any marked upturn probably in last quarter or later.
FOOD.....	Supplies generally plentiful with active demand - strong markets.
FISHERY PRODUCTION.....	Very active - peak of operations for most major fisheries, but overall production lightest in years.
COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS....	June 1 stocks almost 15 million pounds below year earlier.
MARKETS, EDIBLE FISH.....	Generally steady.
MARKETS, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS.....	Fish oils and meal steady.
IMPORTS.....	High for fresh-water species, groundfish fillets, shrimp, swordfish, and tuna.
EXPORTS.....	Light for most fishery products including fish oils.

GENERAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

Economic activity has begun to level off after eight months of decline. Real upturn not expected before end of year. Industrial production, employment, and incomes have increased slightly during May.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION - Increased activity in durable goods industries in May reflected some recovery in the output of steel and autos from sharply reduced levels. Output of household furniture also increased in May. Activity in the aircraft and ordnance industries continued stable.

CONSTRUCTION - Private housing starts rose in May. Value of new construction declined slightly further, to a seasonally adjusted rate of $47.3 billion.

EMPLOYMENT - Seasonally adjusted nonagricultural employment increased 100,000 in May to 50.7 million, but was 2 million less than a year earlier. The rise in May reflected mainly a further gain in construction employment. Unemployment was 7.2 percent of the civilian labor force compared with the postwar high of 7.5 percent in April, 1958.

COMMODITY PRICES - The wholesale commodity price index drifted lower from early May to early June, reflecting a decline in average prices of farm products. Prices of processed foods continued to rise, reflecting further increases in meats.

PERSONAL INCOME - Personal income rose $1.2 billion (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in May to $344.3 billion. Increases in labor income, the first since last August, accounted for a large part of the rise.

THE FOOD SITUATION

FOOD OUTLOOK

The supplies of the principal food products continue to be plentiful with active demand and strong markets. Only slight declines are expected in certain commodities because of adverse weather conditions, seasonal influences, or conservation measures.

MEATS

Supplies this quarter will be probably smaller than the high level of last year. Total meat consumption in 1958 expected to be about 151 pounds per person, 8 pounds less than last year. Less beef and lamb, but more pork.

POULTRY AND EGGS

Demand continues strong. Supplies of broilers will be larger than those of last year. Turkey production in 1958 will be smaller than the record 81 million of 1957. Egg supplies will probably continue below those of last year until last part of third quarter. Egg consumption in 1958 expected to be 3 percent below 1957.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Milk production is expected to set a new record again in 1958 - the sixth successive year. Total output should reach 127 billion pounds making the total supplies of dairy products for consumption the largest ever.

VEGETABLES

Outlook for fresh vegetable supplies brighter than expected. The increases over last year's production for some commodities will almost offset declines in other vegetables. Supplies of canned vegetables are fairly heavy. Stocks of peas, beans, corn are larger than last year; supplies of sauerkraut, tomatoes, and tomato juice are smaller. Frozen vegetables are in fairly heavy supply, but less than year ago.

FATS AND OILS

Use of food fats during the first half of the marketing year was up about 4 percent from the same period a year earlier. Biggest increase was in margarine. Butter was down. Some seasonal tapering is likely in the third quarter. Exports to be down from last season.

GENERAL FISHERY SITUATION

This quarter will be marked by several local and national fishery promotional campaigns. Foremost among these are: Canned Foods Month (September), National Fish and Seafood Parade (October 6 - 12), New Bedford Scallop Festival (August), Rockland Maine Lobster Festival (August).

Again, the services of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries will be made available for these cooperative industry-government campaigns. These advertising and promotional programs are industry sponsored in an effort to increase sales and consumption of fishery products.

COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS on June 1 were about 15 million pounds less than those on the same date in 1957. Holdings of shrimp and sablefish were up from a year earlier, almost all other species were down.

PRODUCTION in most fisheries will be at peak seasonal levels, but landings are expected to be lower than year earlier, and demand will exceed available supplies.

MAINE SARDINE production is off to a slow start because limited fish supply delayed full scale operation of plants on an efficient basis. However, increased activity at processing plants expected very soon.

PORTION CONTROLLED FISH PRODUCTS for restaurant and institutional use continue to increase in popularity. This puts an additional burden on the supply of fish blocks.

FISH STICK consumption is increasing again after having leveled off for a year or more. The development of standards which are now in effect has restored consumer confidence in this product.

SALMON supplies are still short. Although prices are high now, there is a possibility of an increase in the third quarter. Demand is good even with high prices.

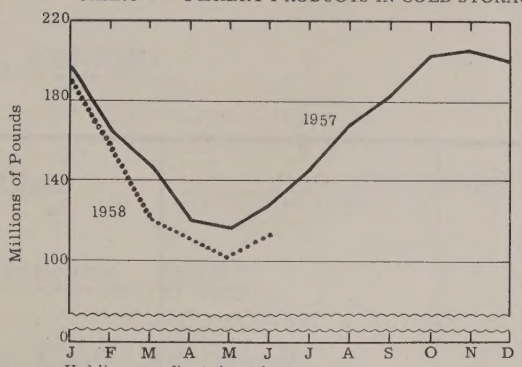
Fishery Products in Cold-Storage

June 1

1958.....113,993,000 Lbs.

1957.....128,320,000 Lbs.

CHART 1 - FISHERY PRODUCTS IN COLD STORAGE

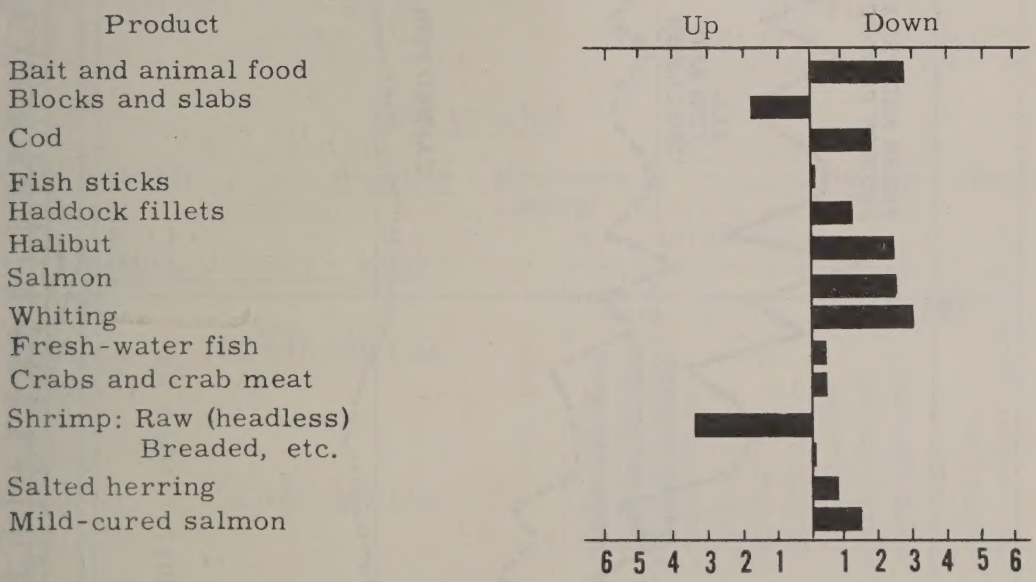


Holdings on first day of month.

June 1 cold-storage holdings of fish and shellfish were down 11 percent below those of the same date in 1957. Edible fishery products totaled 102.9 million pounds, and bait and animal food accounted for 11.0 million pounds in cold-storage plants. Major changes in species holdings from June 1, 1957 are indicated in the accompanying chart:

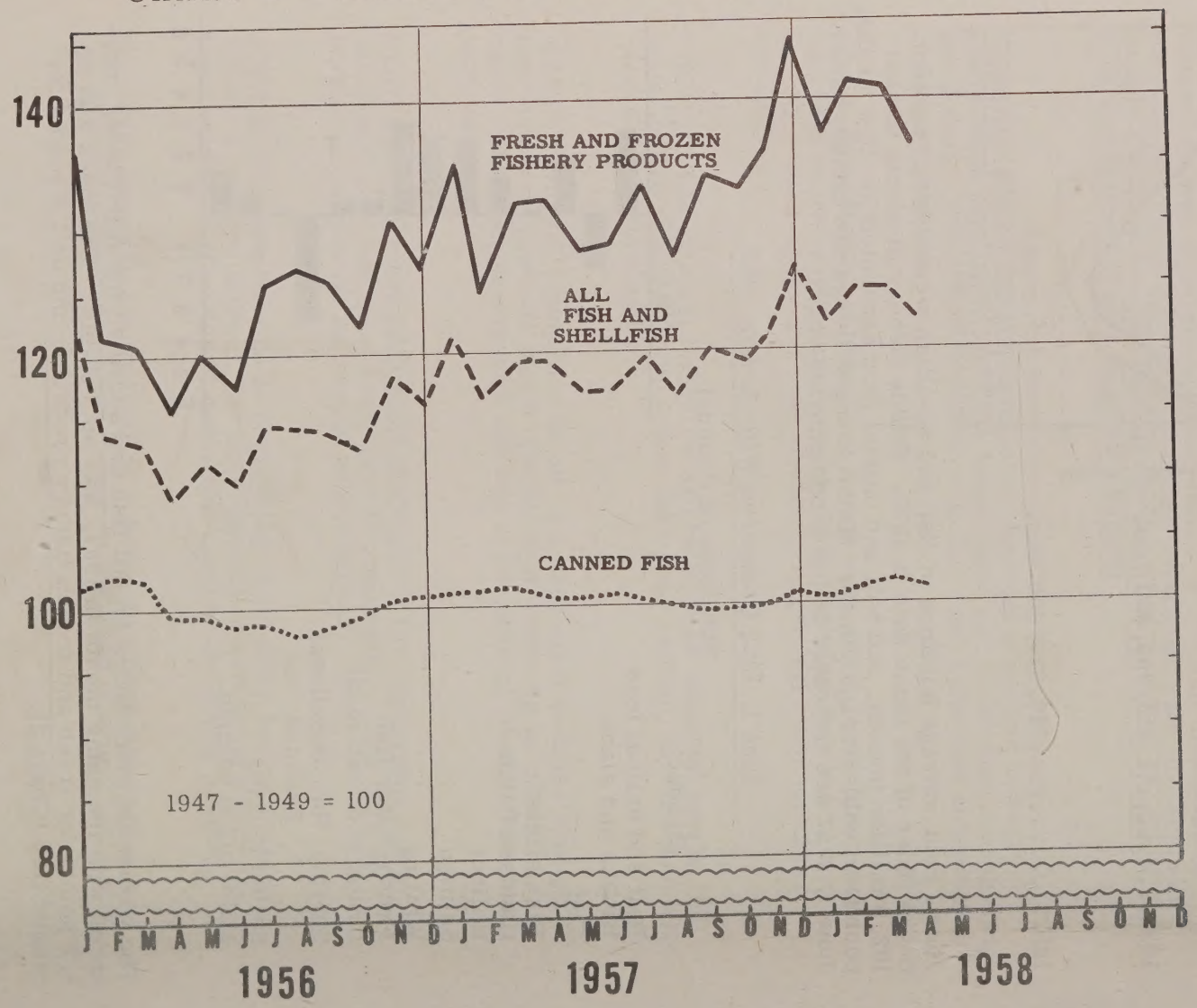
June 1, 1958 Compared With June 1, 1957

(Millions of Pounds)



The wholesale price index for all fish and shellfish for April 1958, compared with the same month in 1957, was up 3 points. The index was up 4.2 points for fresh and frozen fishery products, and up 1.9 points for canned fish (Chart 2).

CHART 2 - INDEXES OF WHOLESALE FISH PRICES


140
120
100
80
FRESH AND FROZEN FISHERY PRODUCTS
ALL FISH AND SHELLFISH
CANNED FISH
1947 - 1949 = 100
J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D
1956
1957
1958

SPECIFIC MARKETING SITUATIONS

Salt-water Fish

ANCHOVIES, CANNED

Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Good

Domestic Pack, January - April

1958..... 29,939 Std. Cases (48 Halves)

1957.....329,911 Std. Cases (48 Halves)

Production of canned anchovies during the first four months of 1958 dropped about 91 percent below that during the same period in 1957 because of scarcity of fish. Landings will continue light during the third quarter.

Prices for canned anchovies should be higher in third quarter reflecting very short supply.

FISH STICKS

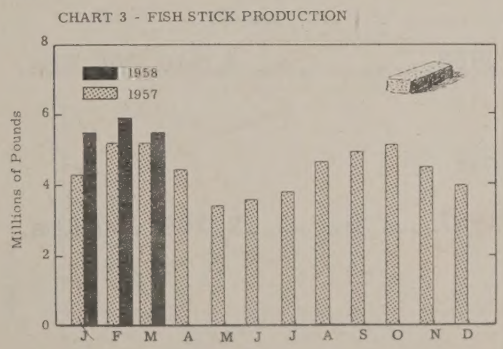
Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate to Liberal Demand - Good

Production, January - March

1958.....16,937,000 Lbs.

1957.....14,483,000 Lbs.

CHART 3 - FISH STICK PRODUCTION



During the first quarter of 1958, the United States' production of fish sticks was 17 percent or 2.5 million pounds greater than during the same period in 1957 (Chart 3). Cooked fish sticks accounted for 92 percent of the total. Processing plants located in the Atlantic Coast area were responsible for 83 percent of total production. There are presently five fish stick processing plants utilizing the continuous inspecting and grading services offered by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries.

Cold-Storage Holdings

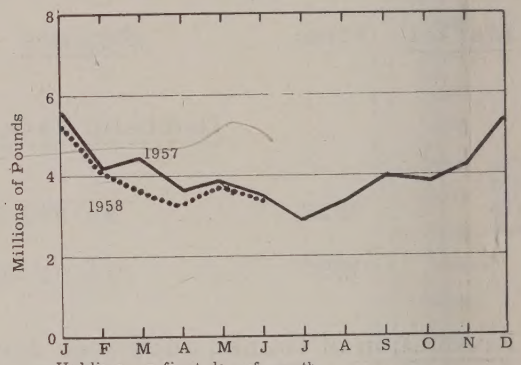
Fish Sticks

June 1

1958.....3,442,000 Lbs.

1957.....3,557,000 Lbs.

CHART 4 - FISH STICKS IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-Storage Holdings

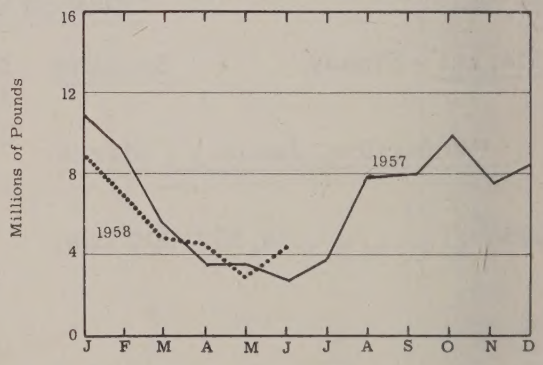
Blocks and Slabs

June 1

1958.....4,540,000 Lbs.

1957.....2,769,000 Lbs.

CHART 5 - BLOCKS AND SLABS IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of fish sticks on June 1 were 3.2 percent less than those on the same date in 1957 (Chart 4). However, blocks and slabs in cold storage were almost 64 percent higher than holdings on June 1, 1957 (Chart 5), but more are being used for portion fish than in the past when almost all went into fish sticks.

Prices are expected to remain firm.

FLOUNDER AND SOLE

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

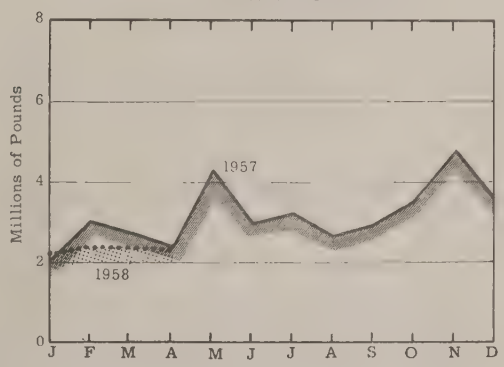
Massachusetts Landings

(January - April)

1958..... 9,426,000 Lbs.

1957.....10,050,000 Lbs.

CHART 6 - LANDINGS OF FLOUNDER AND SOLE, MASSACHUSETTS



Landings of flounder and sole in Massachusetts during the first four months of 1958 were about 7 percent below those during the same period in 1957 (Chart 6). It is expected that third quarter landings will be below those of the second quarter, with the market remaining steady, and the demand continuing good.

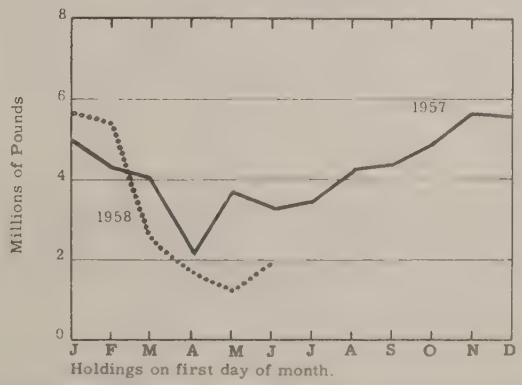
Cold-Storage Holdings

June 1

1958.....1,868,000 Lbs.

1957.....3,347,000 Lbs.

CHART 7 - FLOUNDER AND SOLE FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE



On June 1, the cold-storage holdings of flounder and sole were 44 percent below those on the same date in 1957 (Chart 7). Supply will gradually build up during this quarter.

FLOUNDER AND SOLE (Cont.)

Imports, January - March

(Fillets)

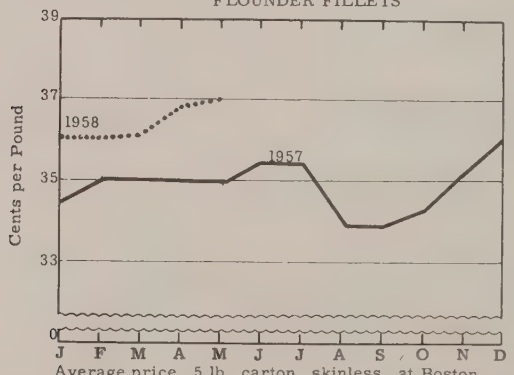
1958..... 2,647,000 Lbs.

1957..... 3,086,000 Lbs.

Imports of flounder and sole during the first quarter of 1958 were almost 14 percent below those through the same period in 1957. About 98 percent of these imports were supplied by Canada.

Prices are expected to remain steady during the third quarter (Chart 8).

CHART 8 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF YELLOWTAIL FLOUNDER FILLETS



Average price, 5 lb. carton, skinless, at Boston.

GROUNDFISH FILLETS, INCLUDING OCEAN PERCH

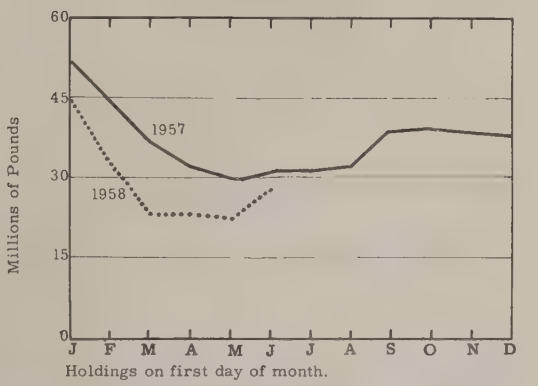
Cold-Storage Holdings

June 1

1958.....27,728,000 Lbs.

1957.....31,779,000 Lbs.

CHART 9 - GROUNDFISH FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE



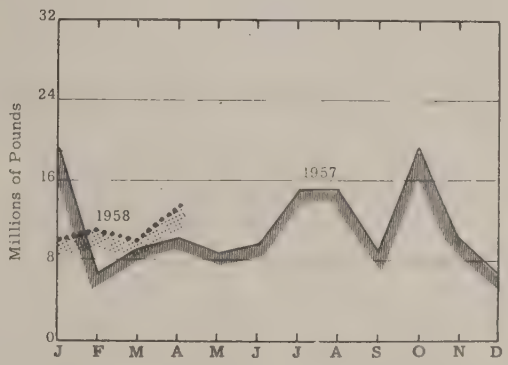
On June 1, the cold-storage holdings of groundfish fillets, including ocean perch and blocks and slabs were down approximately 13 percent below those on June 1, 1957 (Chart 9). Stocks will gradually build up during this quarter.

Imports, January - April

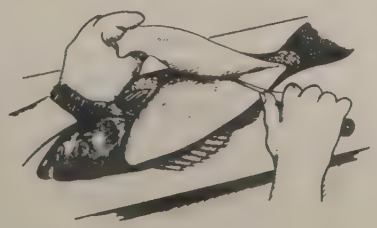
1958.....45,381,000 Lbs.

1957.....47,608,000 Lbs.

CHART 10 - IMPORTS OF GROUNDFISH FILLETS



Imports of groundfish fillets, including blocks, during the first four months of 1958 totaled 45.4 million pounds which represented a 5 percent decrease from the imports during the same period in 1957. Canada accounted for 66 percent of the total imports during the four-month period of 1958 (Chart 10).



COD FILLETS

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

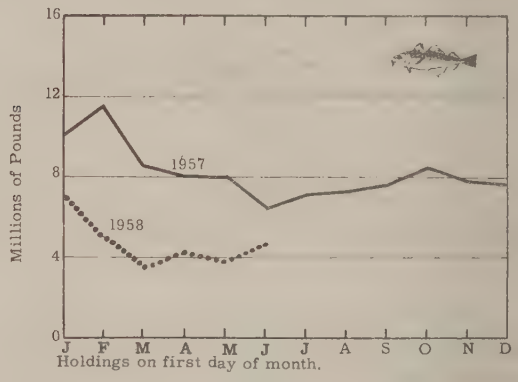
Cold-Storage Holdings

June 1

1958.....4,862,000 Lbs.

1957.....6,548,000 Lbs.

CHART 11 - COD FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of cod fillets on June 1, 1958 were down 26 percent below those on the same date in 1957 (Chart 11). Canadian holdings of cod fillets on the same date were 1,361,000 pounds, a 55 percent decrease from holdings a year earlier.

Landings of cod during the third quarter will level off and prices should become firm.

Imports, January - March

1958.....8,489,000 Lbs.

1957.....9,852,000 Lbs.

Imports of cod fillets during the first quarter of 1958 were 14 percent below those during the first quarter of 1957. Seasonally, cod imports are high during the third quarter.

HADDOCK FILLETS

Market - Firm Supplies - Moderate Demand - Active

Cold-Storage Holdings

June 1

1958.....7,200,000 Lbs.

1957.....8,488,000 Lbs.

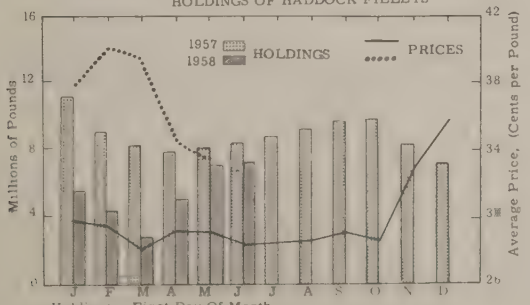
Cold-storage holdings of haddock fillets on June 1 were down about 15 percent from those a year earlier (Chart 12). The Canadian holdings on June 1 were also lower than those of the same date last year by approximately 35 percent.

Landings during this third quarter are expected to be heavy.

Imports of haddock fillets during the first three months of 1958 were 7.4 million pounds, almost 17 percent below the corresponding 1957 period. Canada supplied 70 percent of these imports.

Prices, which have dropped from the high of 40 cents during February and March, should level off in the third quarter and become steady (Chart 12).

CHART 12 - WHOLESALE PRICES AND COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS OF HADDOCK FILLETS



Holdings - First Day Of Month.
Price - 1-lb. small, skins on, at Boston.

OCEAN PERCH FILLETS

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Cold-Storage Holdings

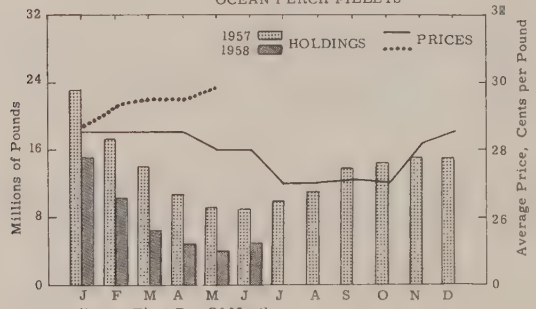
June 1

1958.....4,850,000 Lbs.

1957.....9,134,000 Lbs.

Cold-Storage holdings of ocean perch fillets on June 1 were down 47 percent from those a year earlier (Chart 13). However, stocks will build up during the third quarter as a result of heavy landings.

CHART 13 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND PRICE OF OCEAN PERCH FILLETS



Holdings - First Day Of Month.
Price - 1-lb. carton, large, skins on, at Boston.

Prices will probably drop slightly then remain steady in this quarter (Chart 13).

OCEAN PERCH FILLETS (Cont.)

Imports

January - March

1958.....2,846,000 Lbs.

1957.....3,870,000 Lbs.

Imports of ocean perch fillets during the first quarter of 1958 were down 26 percent from those during the same period in 1957. Canada supplied 83 percent of these imports, and Iceland 14 percent. Imports should be heavy during the third quarter.

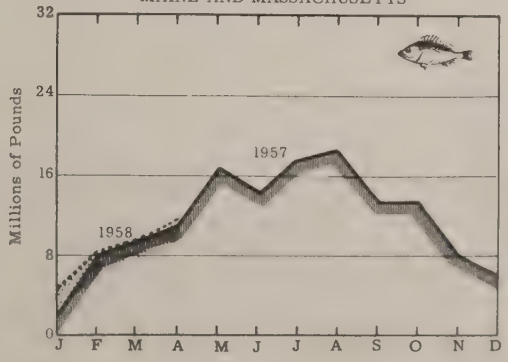
Landings of ocean perch in Maine and Massachusetts during the first four months of 1958 were up approximately 23 percent above those during the same period in 1957. Third quarter landings will be high during first part, then gradually decline (Chart 14).

Landings, January - April

1958.....36,541,000 Lbs.

1957.....29,680,000 Lbs.

CHART 14 - LANDINGS OF OCEAN PERCH, MAINE AND MASSACHUSETTS



POLLOCK FILLETS

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Moderate

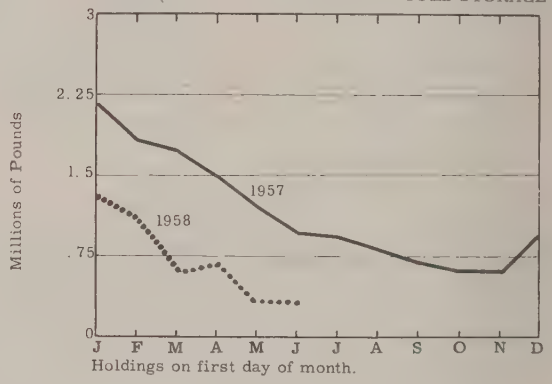
Cold-Storage Holdings

June 1

1958.....301,000 Lbs.

1957.....963,000 Lbs.

CHART 15 - POLLOCK FILLETS IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of pollock fillets on June 1 were down 69 percent below those on June 1, 1957. Stocks should build up during this third quarter (Chart 15).

Prices will probably remain firm at present levels.

HALIBUT

Market - Firm Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Thus far, halibut landings have been at a slower rate than last year. Area II has two fishing seasons. The catch limit for the first season in Area II is 26.5 million pounds, and as of July 2 it had been reached. Fishing went on for 59 days this year compared with 47 days in 1957. The second season is without catch limit and extends for seven days beginning August 31. Halibut landings through June 30 by United States and Canadian fleets totaled 39.5 million pounds for all areas. Area 3A and 3B landings totaled 15.7 million pounds, and these areas will close when the catch limit of 30 million pounds for area 3A is reached.

HALIBUT (Cont.)

Cold-Storage Holdings

June 1

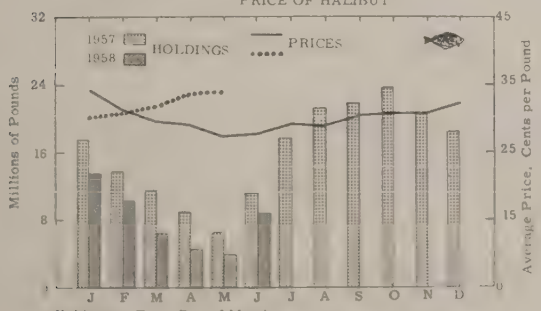
1958..... 8,776,000 Lbs.

1957.....11,349,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of halibut on June 1 were 23 percent lower than those on the same date in 1957. Inventories will become heavy during the third quarter (Chart 16).

Prices are higher than last year and it is expected that they will increase still more before becoming steady (Chart 16).

CHART 16 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND WHOLESALE PRICE OF HALIBUT



Holdings - First Day of Month.
Price - Western dressed, 20-80 lbs., frozen, at New York

HERRING, SEA

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

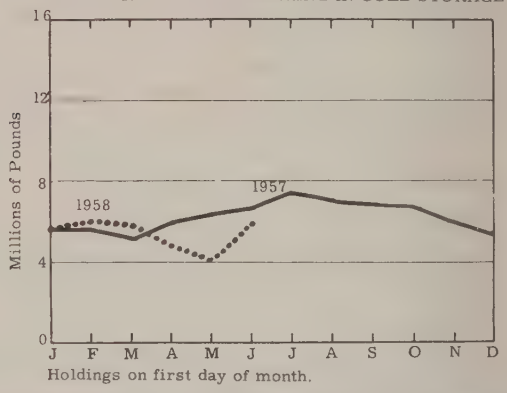
Cold-Storage Holdings

June 1

1958..... 5, 841, 000 Lbs.

1957..... 6, 638, 000 Lbs.

CHART 17 - SALTED HERRING IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of salted sea herring on June 1 were 12 percent below those on June 1, 1957. The inventory peak should be reached sometime during the third quarter, and then gradually decline (Chart 17).

Prices are expected to continue steady in this quarter.

MACKEREL, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Good

Cold-storage holdings of mackerel on June 1 were 51 percent below those on the same date in 1957. Holdings on June 1, 1958 amounted to 328, 000 pounds compared with 665, 000 pounds on June 1, 1957.

Landings of mackerel along the Atlantic Coast will probably be light during this quarter.

Prices should remain steady.

MACKEREL, CANNED

Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Good

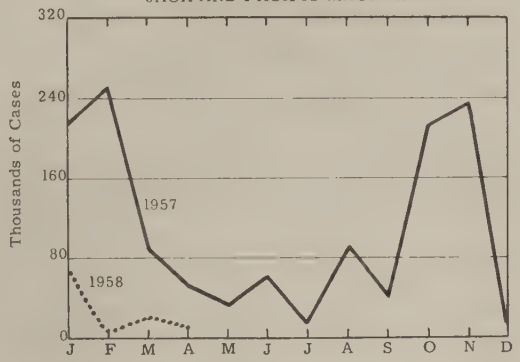
Pack of Pacific and Jack Mackerel

January - April

1958.....103,029 Std. Cases

1957.....604,589 Std. Cases

CHART 18 - CALIFORNIA PACK OF CANNED JACK AND PACIFIC MACKEREL



Pack of canned mackerel during the first four months of 1958 was down almost 83 percent from that during the same period in 1957 (Chart 18). Landings continue poor, and there is an almost complete disappearance of jack mackerel.

Prices will remain firm.

SABLEFISH

Market - Steady Supplies - Liberal Demand - Light

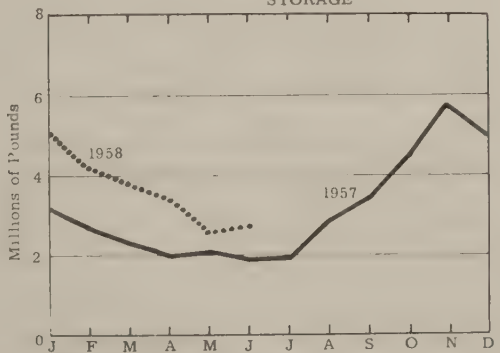
Cold-Storage Holdings

June 1

1958.....2,737,000 Lbs.

1957.....1,936,000 Lbs.

CHART 19 - SABLEFISH (BLACK COD) IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of sablefish on June 1 were about 41 percent higher than those on the same date last year (Chart 19). Sales continue to be slow, and the supply now exceeds the demand principally because a good percentage of the fish is small and not in as much demand as the larger size.

Prices - Although prices are holding firm, a drop is anticipated during the third quarter.

SALMON, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

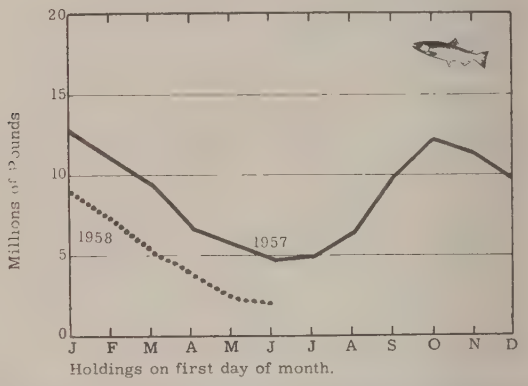
Cold-Storage Holdings

June 1

1958.....2,084,000 Lbs.

1957.....4,677,000 Lbs.

CHART 20- SALMON IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of frozen salmon on June 1 were down 56 percent below those on June 1, last year (Chart 20). There were only about 914,000 pounds of kings and 269,000 pounds of cohos in storage on June 1, 1958.

Imports, January - March

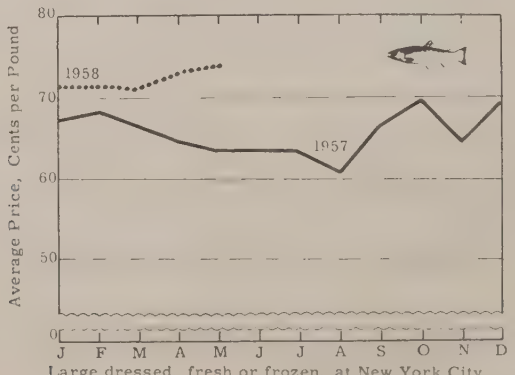
1958.....1,973,000 Lbs.

1957.....1,326,000 Lbs.

Imports of fresh and frozen salmon during the first quarter of 1958 were approximately 49 percent higher than those during the same period in 1957.

Prices are high now and are expected to increase slightly during the third quarter. Demand is good even with high prices (Chart 21).

CHART 21 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF KING SALMON



Large dressed, fresh or frozen, at New York City.

SALMON, MILD-CURED

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Good

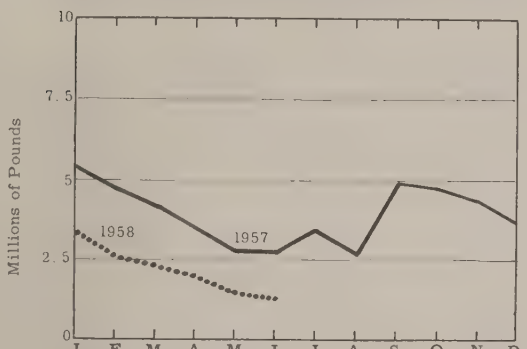
Cold-Storage Holdings

June 1

1958.....1,280,000 Lbs.

1957.....2,760,000 Lbs.

CHART 22- MILD-CURED SALMON IN COLD STORAGE

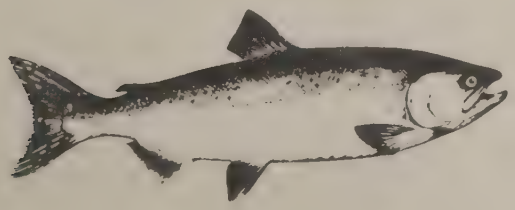


Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of mild-cured salmon on June 1 were approximately 54 percent below those on the same date last year (Chart 22).

Production - Supplies are far from normal, and very little mild-cured salmon has been packed to date.

Prices are at highest level in years, and should remain rather steady. However, if supplies are no greater in third quarter than they are now, prices will advance further.



SALMON, CANNED

Market - Active Supplies - Light Demand - Brisk

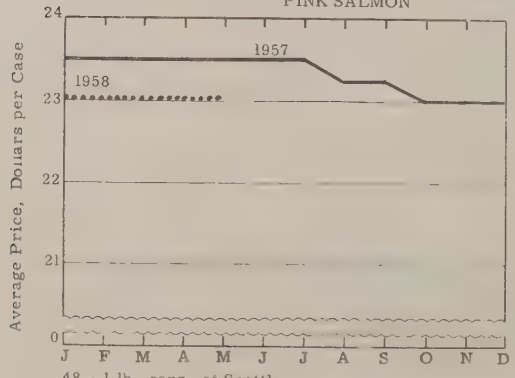
Supplies of canned salmon, although light, will be at the highest level in the third quarter because almost all of the new pack will be on the market. Pack through the middle of June was approximately 2 percent lower than that during a corresponding date in 1957.

Imports of canned salmon during the first quarter of 1958 totaled 11,881,000 pounds compared with 6,241,000 pounds during the first three months of 1957. This was an increase of 90 percent. Japan supplied more than 8,000,000 pounds of canned salmon during this period, while Canada supplied most of the balance.

Exports - During the first quarter, total exports of canned salmon were 59 percent below those during the same period last year. In 1957, almost 68 percent of canned salmon exports from the United States were received by the United Kingdom. The decision of the United Kingdom to spend $12.6 million for North American canned salmon opens up new export market opportunities. Canadian and American firms will supply the salmon on a competitive basis.

Wholesale prices should remain steady throughout the third quarter (Chart 23).

CHART 23 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF CANNED PINK SALMON



48 - 1 lb. cans, at Seattle.

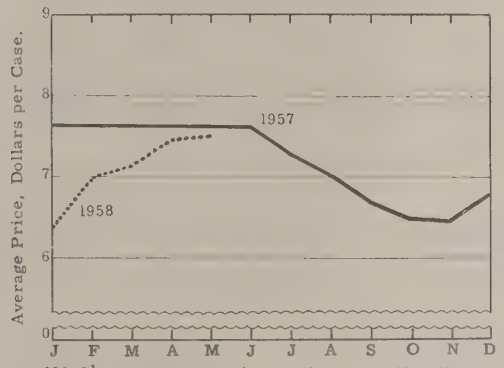
SARDINES, CANNED (MAINE)

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Moderate

Pack - The Maine sardine canning season is off to a slow start. The pack through June 30 totaled 302,000 cases compared with 646,000 cases during the same period in 1957. The industry is expecting increased operations to begin shortly because indications are that ideal conditions will exist during the third quarter for landing and processing sardines.

Prices will continue to strengthen and remain steady during the third quarter. The industry is faced with higher operating costs because of increases in the price of cans and other items (Chart 24).

CHART 24 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF MAINE SARDINES



100-3¼ ounce cans, keyless, oil pack, at New York

SARDINES, CANNED (CALIFORNIA)

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Good

Landings - There are virtually no California sardines at the present time. However, there is optimism that the pack, for the season which opens in August, will be better than that of last year which was very poor. Any increased production will find a good demand with high prices.

Exports, January - March

1958	2,149,000 Lbs.
1957	6,429,000 Lbs.

Exports during the first quarter of 1958 were about 67 percent below those during the same period of 1957 because of lack of supplies rather than demand.

SARDINES, CANNED

Imports of Sardines Not-in-Oil

January - March

1958..... 3,341,000 Lbs.

1957..... 353,000 Lbs.

Imports of sardines canned not-in-oil during the first quarter of 1958 exceeded those imported during the first quarter of 1957 by almost three million pounds. It is expected that imports will continue high during the third quarter.

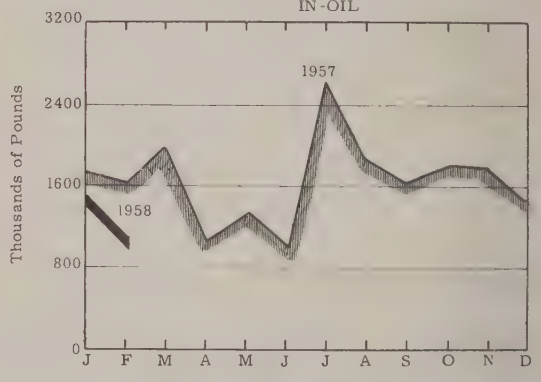
Imports of Sardines in Oil

January - March

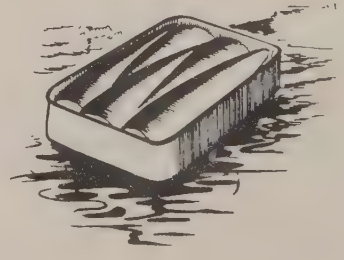
1958..... 4,122,000 Lbs.

1957..... 5,424,000 Lbs.

CHART 25 - IMPORTS OF SARDINES CANNED IN-OIL



During the first quarter of 1958, imports of sardines canned-in-oil were 24 percent below those during the first three months of 1957. These imports should rise during the third quarter. Prices will continue firm and steady. Chart 25 reflects imports through February, 1958.



SWORDFISH

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

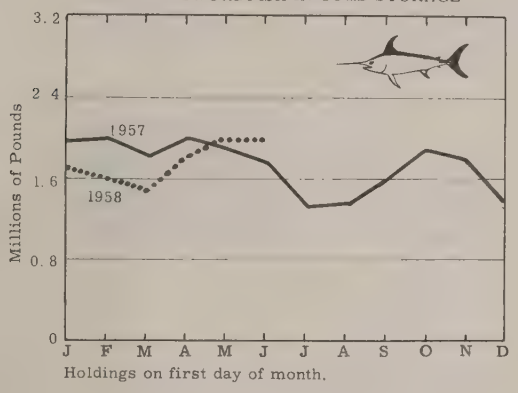
Cold-Storage Holdings

June 1

1958.....1,957,000 Lbs.

1957.....1,820,000 Lbs.

CHART 26- SWORDFISH IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of swordfish on June 1 were approximately 8 percent higher than those of a year earlier (Chart 26).

Imports during the first quarter of 1958 totaled 546,000 pounds, almost 34 percent below those during the same period in 1957.

Prices - Supply is expected to decrease during the third quarter with a probable increase in price.

TUNA, CANNED

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Cannery Receipts of Fresh and Frozen
Tuna, Southern California
January - April
(In Tons)

	Imports	Domestic	Total
1958	17,847	41,585	59,432
1957	20,703	40,861	61,564

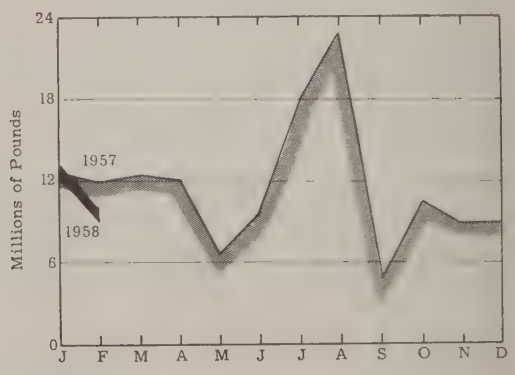
Cannery receipts of fresh and frozen tuna and tunalike fish during the first four months of 1958 were almost four percent below those of the year earlier period. Imports accounted for approximately 30 percent of the total in 1958 and 34 percent in 1957.

Imports, Frozen Tuna
January - March

1958..... 31,961,000 Lbs.

1957..... 36,669,000 Lbs.

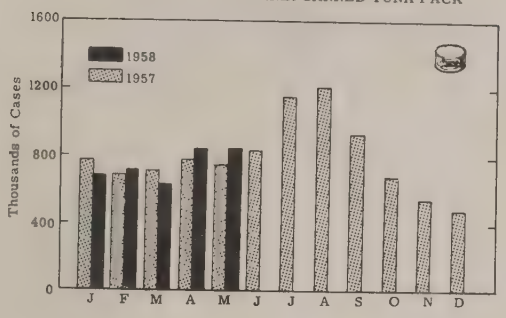
CHART 27 - IMPORTS OF FRESH AND FROZEN TUNA



Imports of frozen tuna at all United States ports during the first quarter of 1958 were about 13 percent below imports during the similar period last year. Cooked loins and discs imports amounted to 2.1 million pounds in the first three months of this year. Chart 27 shows imports through February, 1958.

California Pack of Canned Tuna

CHART 28- CALIFORNIA CANNED TUNA PACK



January - May

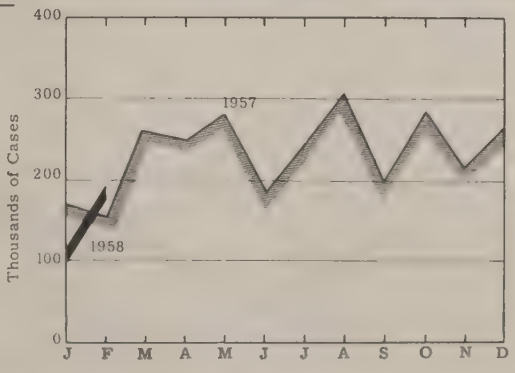
1958..... 3,733,905 Std. Cases

1957..... 3,632,932 Std. Cases

Pack - The California pack of canned tuna during the first five months of 1958 was about 101,000 cases greater than that during the same period last year (Chart 28). While inventories are lower than last year, supplies are adequate and should improve during the third quarter.

Imports of Canned Tuna and Bonito

CHART 29- IMPORTS OF CANNED TUNA AND BONITO



January - February

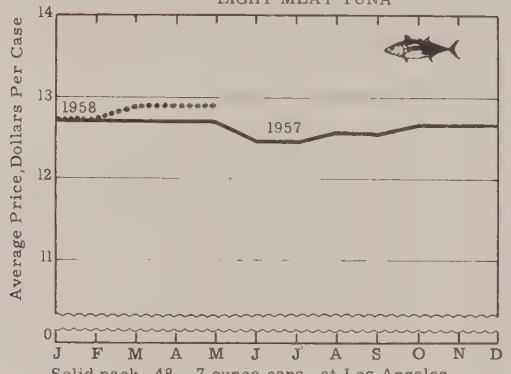
1958..... 309,000 Std. Cases

1957..... 327,000 Std. Cases

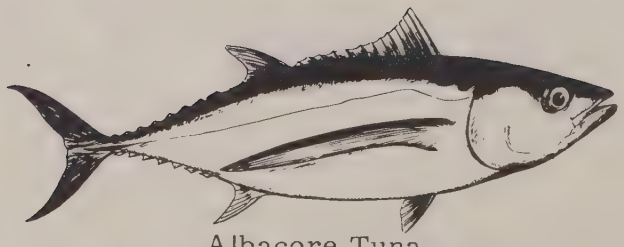
Imports of canned tuna and bonito during the first two months of 1958 were almost 6 percent below those during the same period in 1957 (Chart 29). Japan is the principal supplier of canned tuna and most of the bonito originate in Peru. A scarcity of Japanese canned albacore is reported.

Prices should remain firm. There is a tendency toward a tightening of canned prices, but it is doubtful that there will be any change in price quotations during the third quarter (Chart 30). However, a slight increase in Japanese canned albacore prices will carry through this quarter.

CHART 30 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF CANNED LIGHT MEAT TUNA



Solid pack, 48 7 ounce cans, at Los Angeles.



Albacore Tuna
Average size, 12-25 lbs.

WHITING

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

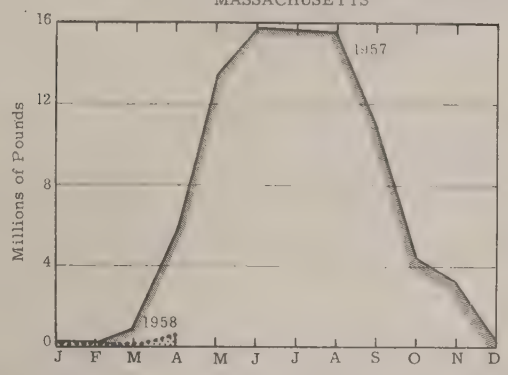
Landings, January - April

(Massachusetts)

1958..... 644,000 Lbs.

1957.....6,512,000 Lbs.

CHART 31 - LANDINGS OF WHITING MASSACHUSETTS



Landings of whiting in Massachusetts during the first four months of 1958 were approximately 90 percent below those during the same period of 1957. However, there should be a substantial increase in landings during the third quarter (Chart 31).

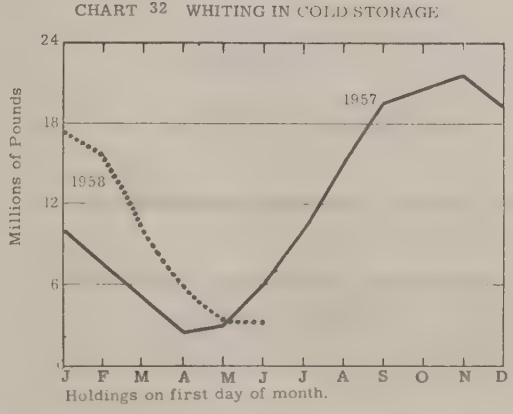
Cold-Storage Holdings

June 1

1958.....3,271,000 Lbs.

1957.....6,209,000 Lbs.

CHART 32 WHITING IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of whiting on June 1 were 47 percent below those on the same date in 1957 (Chart 32).

Prices should be lower and generally steady during the third quarter for both fillets and dressed whiting.

CLAMS, FRESH

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Good

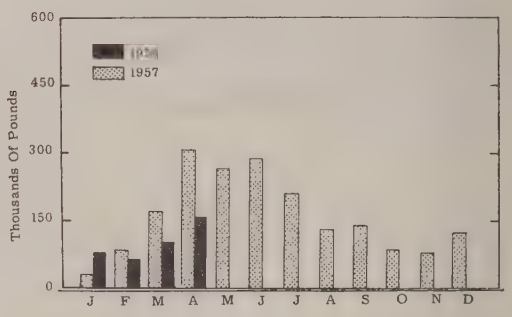
Production, January - April

(Maine Soft Clams)

1958.....397,000 Lbs.

1957.....556,000 Lbs.

CHART 33 PRODUCTION OF MAINE SOFT CLAMS



Production of soft clams in Maine during the first four months of 1958 was 29 percent below that during the same 1957 period. There will be a seasonal decline during the third quarter (Chart 33).

Prices are expected to be steady.

SURF CLAMS

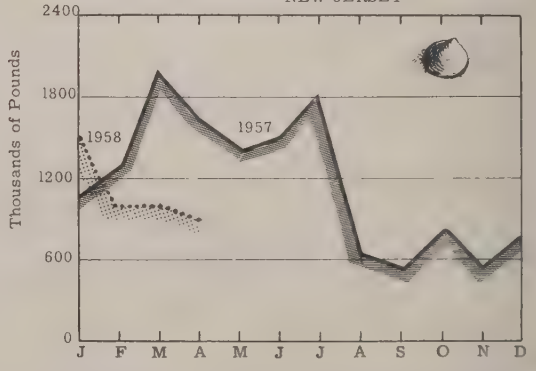
New Jersey Landings

January - April

1958.....4,404,000 Lbs.

1957.....6,052,000 Lbs.

CHART 34 - LANDINGS OF SURF CLAMS, NEW JERSEY



Landings of surf clams in New Jersey during the first four months of 1958 were lower than those a year earlier by 27 percent (Chart 34).

Prices are expected to remain steady during the third quarter.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Production of hard crabs should be rather good along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts during the third quarter. The third quarter is off-season for Dungeness crabs on the Pacific Coast.

Cold-Storage Holdings

June 1

1958.....3,441,000 Lbs.

1957.....3,915,000 Lbs.

Cold-storage holdings of crabs and crab meat on June 1 were 12 percent lower than those on the same date in 1957. Dungeness and king crabs comprise most of the stocks.

Prices are not expected to strengthen and could drop during this quarter.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, CANNED

Pack - The season pack for canned crab meat in the Gulf States is thus far so very small that quantities have not yet been reported. It is expected that much improvement will develop during the third quarter. The season pack of 13,639 standard cases during 1957 was approximately 32 percent larger than that of the year earlier.

CRABS AND CRAB MEAT, CANNED (Cont.)

Imports

January - March

1958.....1,228,000 Lbs.

1957.....1,063,000 Lbs.

Imports of canned crab meat during the first quarter of 1958 were up 16 percent over those during the same quarter of 1957. These imports are mostly king crabs, with Japan the principal supplier.

Prices for canned crab meat are expected to be high and steady during the third quarter.

LOBSTERS, NORTHERN

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

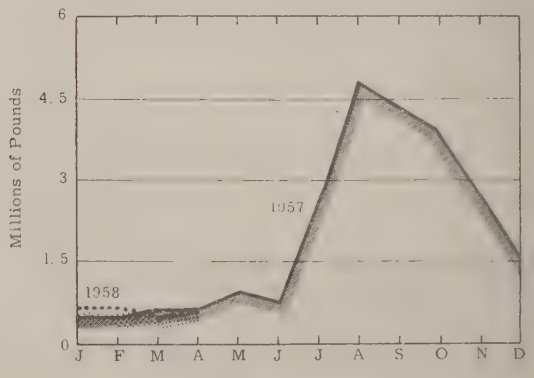
Maine Landings

January - April

1958.....2,436,000 Lbs.

1957.....2,294,000 Lbs.

CHART 35 - LANDINGS OF LOBSTERS, MAINE



Landings of lobsters in Maine to the end of April, 1958 increased by 6 percent over those during the first four months of last year. Seasonally, peak landings occur during the third quarter (Chart 35). Canadian landings should decline during this quarter.

LOBSTERS, NORTHERN (Cont.)

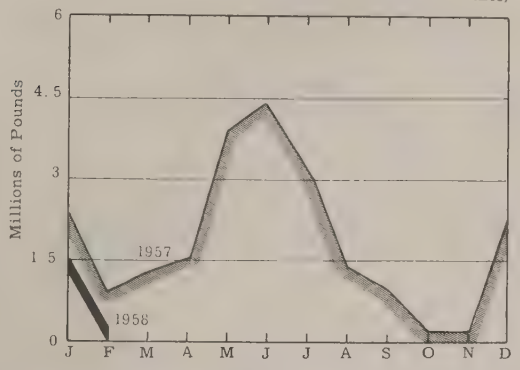
Imports from Canada

January - February

1958.....2,079,000 Lbs.

1957.....3,200,000 Lbs.

CHART 36 - IMPORTS OF LOBSTERS (CANADA)



Imports of lobsters from Canada through February, 1958 were 35 percent below those through the first two months of 1957. They will decline sharply during the third quarter (Chart 36).

Prices should remain rather steady even with increased landings.

LOBSTERS, SPINY

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

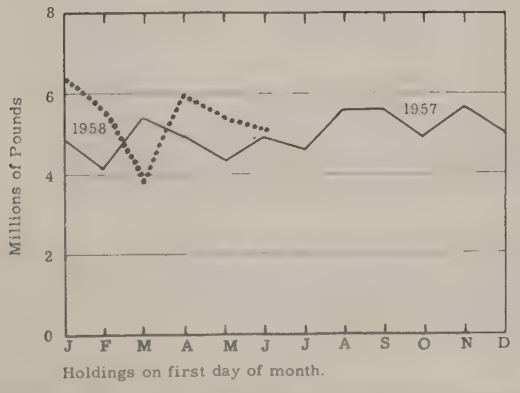
Cold-Storage Holdings

June 1

1958.....5,130,000 Lbs.

1957.....4,975,000 Lbs.

CHART 37 - SPINY LOBSTERS IN COLD STORAGE



Cold-storage holdings of spiny lobsters on June 1 were approximately 3 percent higher than those on June 1, 1957 (Chart 37).

LOBSTERS, SPINY (Cont.)

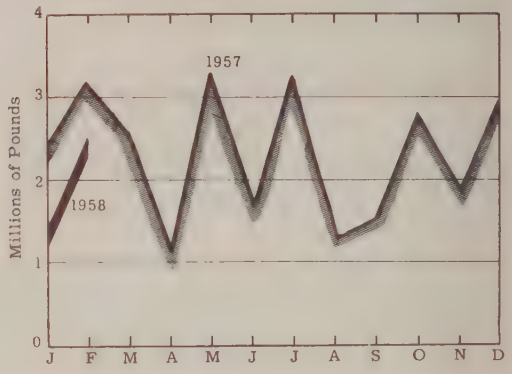
Imports

January - February

1958.....4,032,000 Lbs.

1957.....5,639,000 Lbs.

CHART 38 - IMPORTS OF SPINY LOBSTERS



Imports of spiny lobsters during the first two months this year were about 28 percent below those during the same period in 1957. These imports usually rise during July and then decline during the last part of the quarter (Chart 38).

OYSTERS, FRESH-SHUCKED

Market - Steady Supplies - Light Demand - Brisk

Production will be light during July and August but will pick up during September along the Atlantic Coast.

Prices for shucked oysters will continue high.

OYSTERS, CANNED

Market - Firm Supplies - Light Demand - Moderate

Pack of canned oysters in the Gulf States through the 1958 season was 199,673 standard cases (48 cans, 4 2/3 ounces each), approximately 35 percent less than the pack during the corresponding period in 1957. Stocks seem to be adequate for normal demand.

Prices are expected to continue firm and high through the third quarter.

SCALLOPS, SEA

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate-to-Liberal Demand - Good

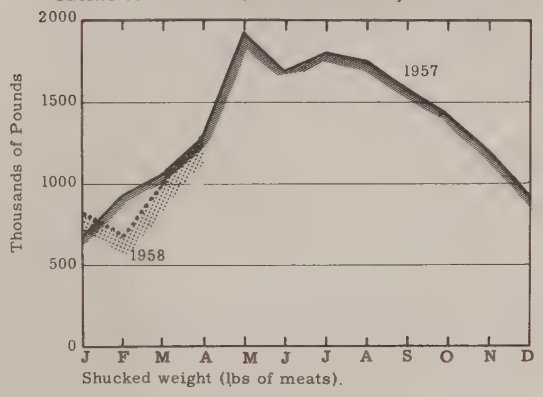
New Bedford Landings

January - April

1958.....3,868,000 Lbs.

1957.....3,956,000 Lbs.

CHART 39 - LANDINGS OF SCALLOPS, NEW BEDFORD



Shucked weight (lbs of meats).

Landings of sea scallops at New Bedford during the first four months of 1958 were only about 2 percent below those during the corresponding period in 1957. The beginning of the third quarter will bring continued high landings before sharp declines toward the end of the year (Chart 39).

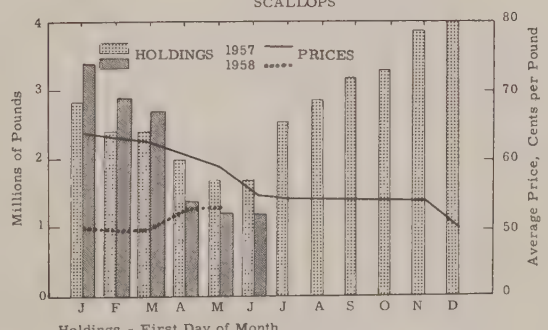
Cold-Storage Holdings

June 1

1958.....1,204,000 Lbs.

1957.....1,735,000 Lbs.

CHART 40 - COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS AND PRICE OF SCALLOPS



Holdings - First Day of Month.
Price - Domestic 5-lb. carton, at Boston.

Cold-storage holdings on June 1 were 31 percent lower than those on June 1, 1957 (Chart 40).

Prices are expected to hold steady at a high level during the third quarter (Chart 40).

SHRIMP, FRESH AND FROZEN

Market - Strong Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

Landings, Gulf and South Atlantic

January - March

(Headless)

1958.....13,966,000 Lbs.

1957.....15,792,000 Lbs.

Landings of shrimp in the Gulf and South Atlantic during the third quarter are expected to be slightly higher than those of the third quarter last year. During the first quarter of 1958, the landings were 12 percent below those during the corresponding 1957 period.

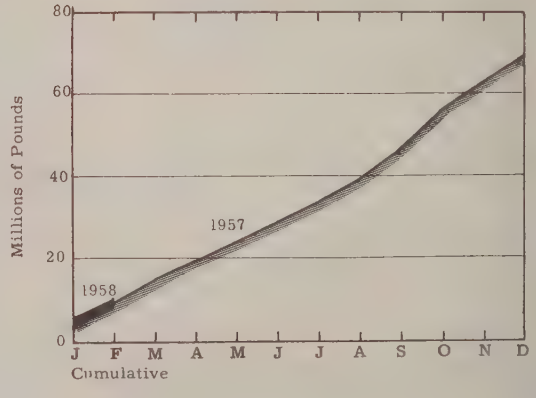
Imports

January - February

1958.....10,162,000 Lbs.

1957..... 9,923,000 Lbs.

CHART 41 - IMPORTS OF SHRIMP



Imports of shrimp will probably rise sharply during the third quarter. During the first two months of 1958, imports were slightly more than 2 percent above those during same period in 1957 (Chart 41).

Cold-Storage Holdings

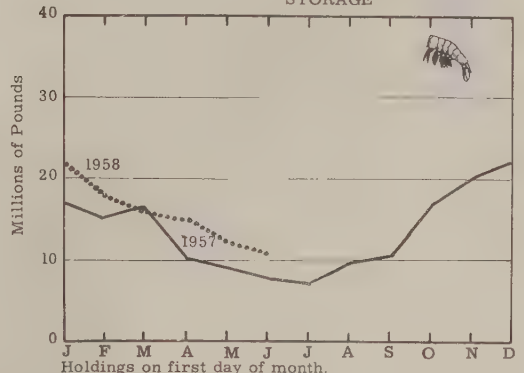
June 1

(Raw Headless)

1958..... 11,025,000 Lbs.

1957..... 7,620,000 Lbs.

CHART 42- RAW HEADLESS SHRIMP IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-Storage Holdings

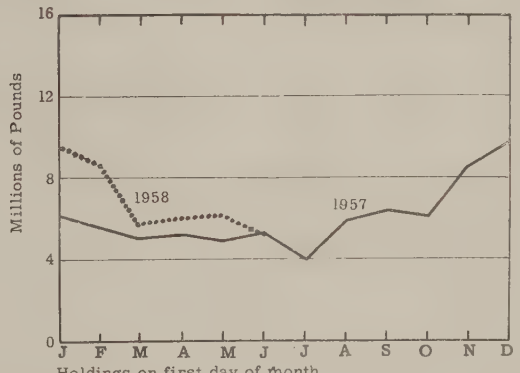
June 1

(All Other)

1958..... 5,317,000 Lbs.

1957..... 5,457,000 Lbs.

CHART 43 - ALL OTHER (PROCESSED) SHRIMP IN COLD STORAGE

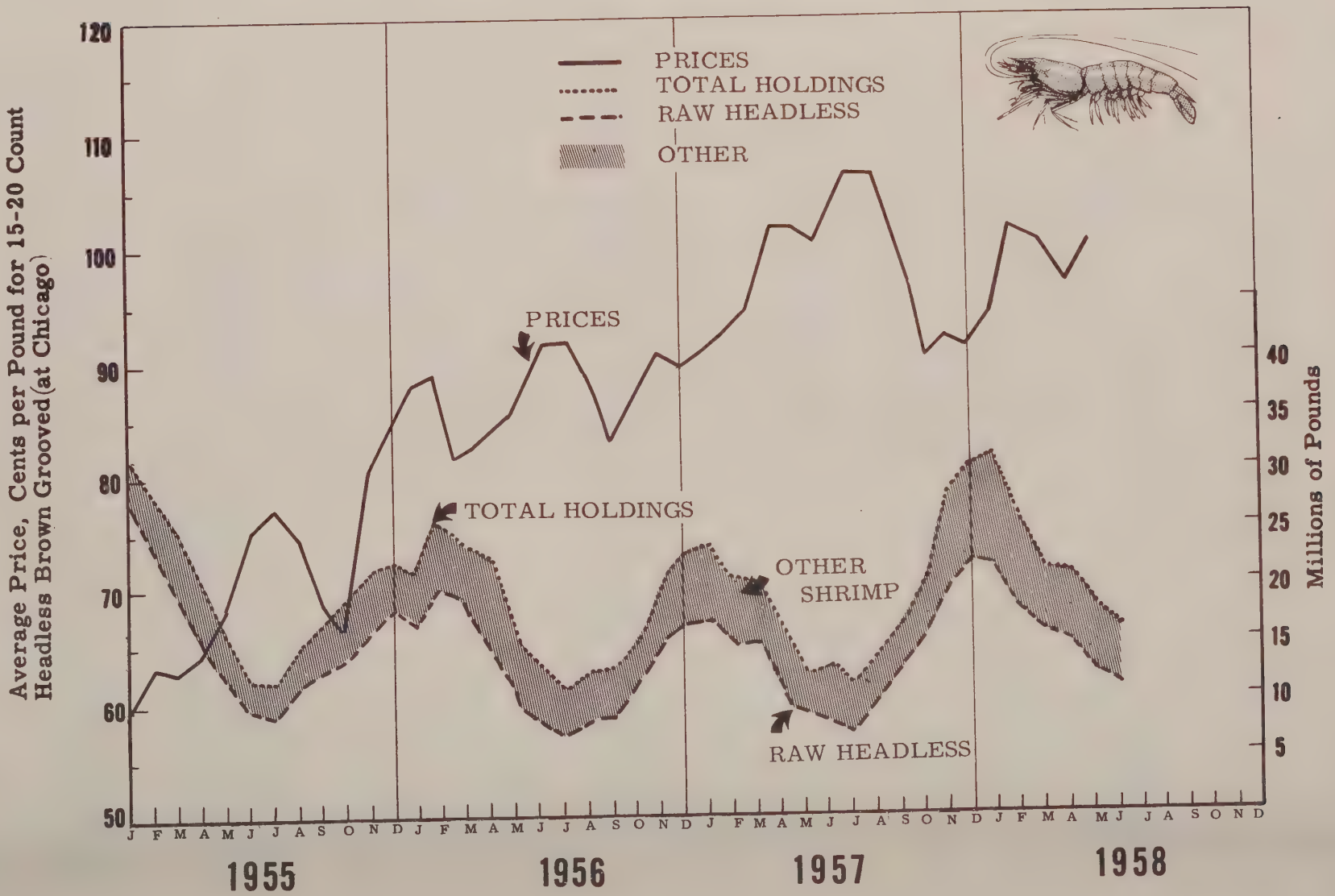


Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of raw headless shrimp on June 1 were almost 45 percent higher than those on June 1, 1957. Holdings of all other shrimp, including breaded, were down slightly on June 1 from the corresponding date in 1957 (Charts 42 and 43). However, a good percentage of the shrimp in storage is not available for spot sales.

Prices at Chicago for headless, 15-20 count brown shrimp during May were only about 1.6 percent lower than those a year earlier. Prices should remain firm and high during most of the third quarter (Chart 44).

CHART 44 - SHRIMP IN COLD STORAGE AND WHOLESALE PRICES



SHRIMP, CANNED

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate Demand - Good

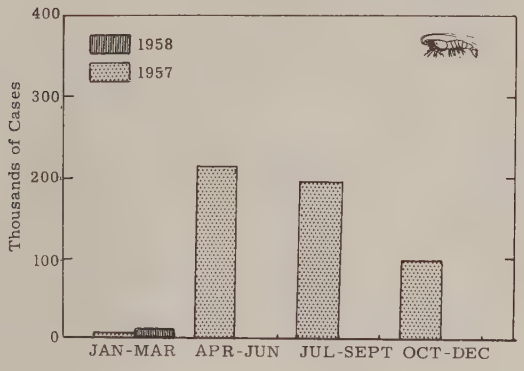
Pack

January - May

1958..... 58, 242 Std. Cases

1957..... 71, 700 Std. Cases

CHART 45 - CANNED SHRIMP PACK (GULF)



Pack of canned shrimp in the Gulf States through May, 1958 was almost 19 percent below that during the first five months of 1957. There was very little carry-over of canned shrimp. Present supplies are result of recent limited production.

Landings of the small West Coast shrimp in 1957, have increased 64 percent over those in the previous year. New shrimp fishing grounds have been discovered off the coasts of Oregon and Washington. There has been an active sales campaign with respect to these shrimp which have been appearing more frequently in the eastern markets. They have taken up some of the slack caused by the shortage of canned Gulf shrimp.

Prices are still high and will remain high.

Fresh-water Fish

Cold-Storage Holdings

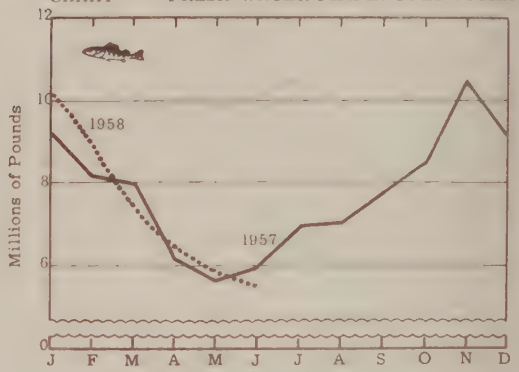
June 1

(United States)

1958..... 5,528,000 Lbs.

1957..... 6,067,000 Lbs.

CHART 46 - FRESH-WATER FISH IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-Storage Holdings

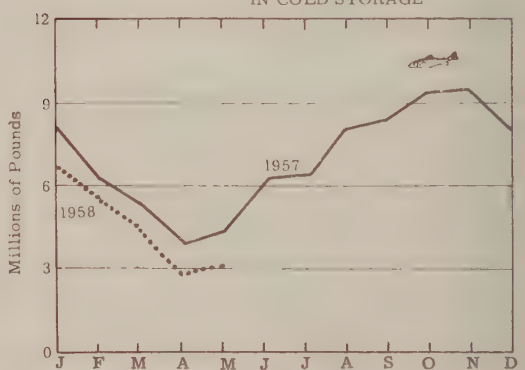
May 1

(Canada)

1958..... 3,091,000 Lbs.

1957..... 4,349,000 Lbs.

CHART 47 - CANADIAN FRESH-WATER FISH IN COLD STORAGE



Holdings on first day of month.

Cold-storage holdings of fresh-water fish in the United States on June 1 were approximately 9 percent lower than those a year earlier. Canadian holdings on May 1 were down 29 percent below those on May 1, 1957 (Charts 46 and 47). The lower holdings were attributed to increasing population in rough fish and a corresponding decrease in food fish.

Fish Imports

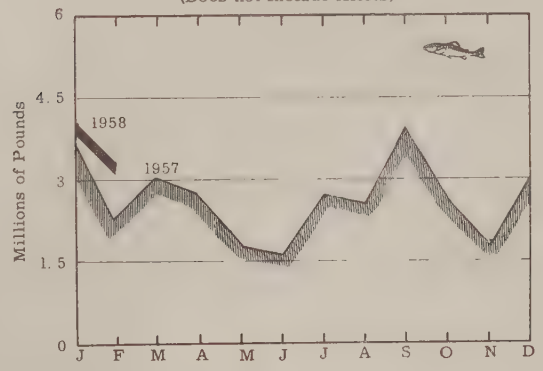
(Canada)

January - February

1958.....7,285,000 Lbs.

1957.....6,071,000 Lbs.

CHART 48 - IMPORTS OF FRESH-WATER FISH (CANADA)
(Does not include fillets)



Fillet Imports

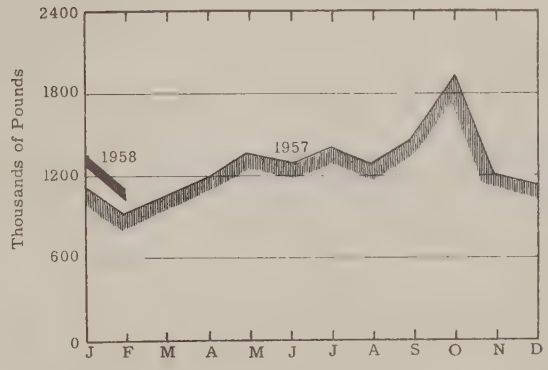
(Canada)

January - February

1958.....2,463,000 Lbs.

1957.....2,126,000 Lbs.

CHART 49- IMPORTS OF FRESH-WATER FISH FILLETS (CANADA)



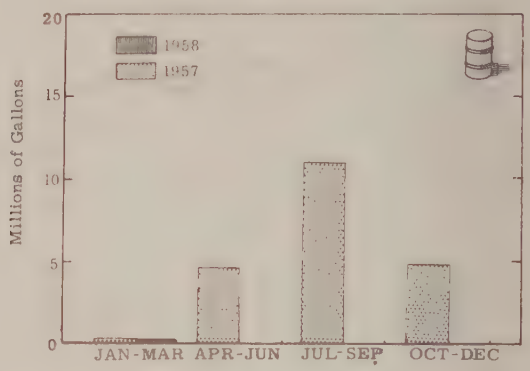
Imports of fresh-water fish from Canada through February, 1958 were 20 percent higher than those during the same period a year earlier. Imports of fresh-water fillets during the same period were up 16 percent (Charts 48 and 49). The peak of domestic landings was reached during the second quarter, and lighter domestic landings are due to increasing population of rough fish.

Prices will have a tendency to rise during this quarter.

FISH OIL

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate to Liberal Demand - Moderate

CHART 50 - FISH OIL PRODUCTION



Production

January - March

1958.....178,892 Gals.

1957.....217,700 Gals.

Production of fish oils during the first quarter of 1958 was down 18 percent from the corresponding period in 1957. However, peak production normally occurs during the third quarter (Chart 50).

Exports, January - March

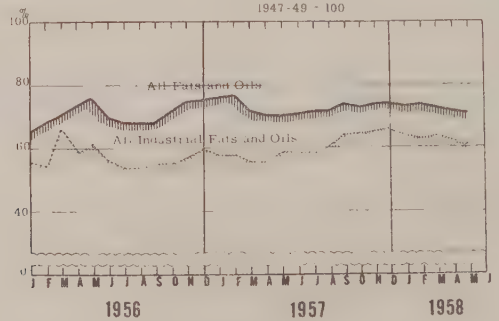
1958.....26,481,000 Lbs.

1957.....35,325,000 Lbs.

Exports of fish oils through March were approximately 25 percent lower than those during the corresponding period in 1957. Although the third quarter demand is expected to be moderate, total exports will be below last year.

Wholesale price index for all fats and oils for May, 1958 was 71.2, a rise of 0.9 of a point from May, 1957. The index for all industrial fats and oils was at 60.9 an increase of 2.2 points above a year earlier (Chart 51).

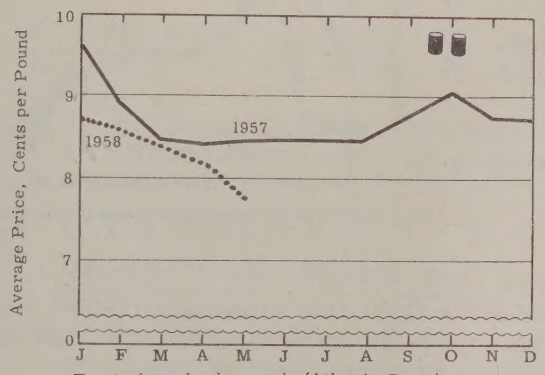
CHART 51 - WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES
1947-49 = 100



FISH OIL (Cont.)

Price of menhaden oil in May, 1958 was 7.75 cents per pound, a drop of almost 9 percent from that during May, 1957. Prices are expected to follow the seasonal pattern and rise slightly during the third quarter (Chart 52).

CHART 52 - WHOLESALE PRICE OF MENHADEN OIL



For tank carloads, crude (Atlantic Coast)

FISH MEAL

Market - Steady Supplies - Moderate to Liberal Demand - Moderate

Production

January - April

1958.....11,661 Tons

1957.....16,915 Tons

Production of fish meal through April was about 31 percent less than that during the first four months of 1957. Heaviest production will occur during the third quarter.

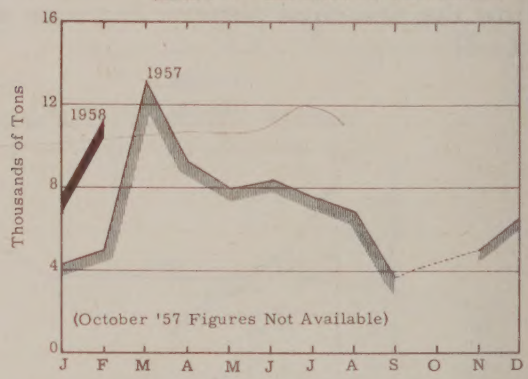
Imports

January - February

1958.....18, 915 Tons

1957..... 9, 305 Tons

CHART 53 - IMPORTS OF FISH MEAL



Imports of fish meal during the first two months of 1958 more than doubled those during the corresponding period of 1957. In the third quarter imports of fish meal are normally low (Chart 53).

CHART 54 - WHOLESALE FEEDSTUFF PRICE INDEX

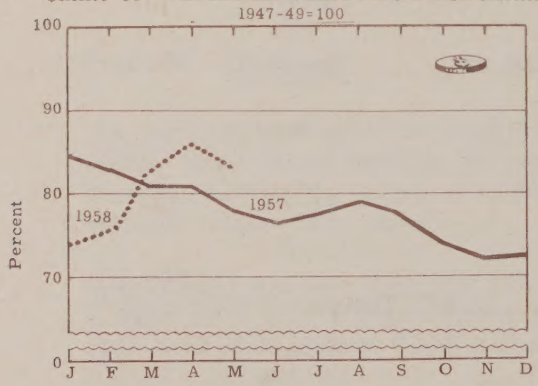
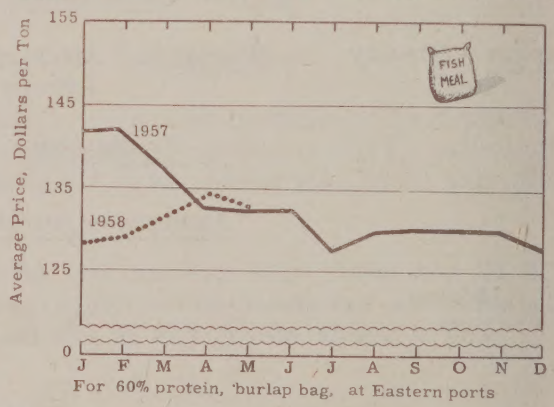


CHART 55 - WHOLESALE PRICES OF MENHADEN MEAL



For 60% protein, burlap bag, at Eastern ports

Wholesale feedstuff price index for May, 1958 was up 5.4 points from a year earlier, but down 2.9 points from the preceding month (Chart 54).

Wholesale price for menhaden meal has improved, and in May, 1958 it was $133 per ton, slightly above the price in May, 1957. After a slight drop during the beginning of the third quarter, prices should become steady (Chart 55).

The statements appearing in this report are interpretations of past experiences influenced by current indications of what probably will occur. Wide use is made of interviews and correspondence with representative members of the commercial fishing industry, in order to obtain the opinion of the trade as to the business conditions generally expected to prevail during the period of the year covered by the report. Five-year averages are no longer shown because of realignments in statistical reporting.

Sources of Chart Data

Chart 2, U. S. Department of Labor
Charts 10, 25, 27, 29, 36, 38, 41, 48, 49, 53, U. S. Department of Commerce
Charts 51, 54, U. S. Department of Agriculture
Charts 18, 28, California Department of Fish and Game, Marine Fisheries Branch
Chart 47, Canadian Bureau of Statistics

Market Terms Used in This Report

The terms under the headings Market, Supplies, and Demand are intended to indicate the degree of market activity produced by the particular supply and demand situation.

Market refers to movement of supplies and the price structure.

Supplies refers to available stocks, i. e. receipts, imports, cold-storage holdings, and processed fish and shellfish. The terms used are relative and do not signify any particular quantity.

Demand measures the readiness of the trade to absorb supplies.

Market	Supplies	Demand
Excited	Very heavy	Exceeds supply
Stronger	Heavy	Brisk
Strong	Liberal	Active
Active	Moderate-to-Liberal	Good
Firm	Moderate	Improving
Steady	Light-to-Moderate	Moderate
Unsettled	Light	Light
Dull		Slow
Weak		Practically no demand
Demoralized		No demand

Prices refer to those at wholesale or comparable level.

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- National Summary of Business Conditions

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- Agricultural Situation
- Cold Storage Report
- Dairy Situation
- Demand and Price Situation
- Fats and Oils Situation
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- Marketing and Transportation Situation
- National Food Situation
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